

The Office noted that Applicant's reproduction of claims 23, 30 and 36 is inaccurate. Attached to this paper is a copy of the pending claims for the Office's convenience.

The Office also remarked that Applicant had not pointed out the support in the original disclosure for each of the newly presented claims. In response thereto, Applicant points to page 20, line 30 to page 21, line 9 for support for the amended claims, which is consistent with the elected species of Figures 16A through 16D. An issue of new matter was not raised by these amendments and entry thereof is respectfully requested.

### **35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claims 23, 24, 28, 30-37 and 40-43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as allegedly anticipated by Silvestrini, U.S. Patent No. 5,300,118 (the '118 patent). The Office noted that Figures 11A and 11A; column 2, lines 13-15; column 3, lines 60-68; column 6, lines 47-50 and 58-60; and column 10, lines 14-27 and 38-42, as being of particular relevance

Applicant respectfully traverses and directs the Examiner to page 20, line 30 to page 22, line 8 of the specification which describes the embodiments shown in Figures 16A and 16B. A comparison of Figures 16A and 16B to Figures 11A and 11B of the '118 patent clearly shows that the ring of the '118 patent does not anticipate the claims of the subject application. The ring of the '118 patent is not disclosed to contain a plurality of adjoining sections wherein the cross-sectional areas of the adjoining sections change substantially stepwise from one section to an adjoining section. For this reason, the claims are novel over the disclosure of the '118 patent. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

### **Change of Firm Name**

The undersigned attorney's firm name has been changed to Bingham McCutchen LLP.

### **Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement**

Attached to this reply is a supplemental IDS and PTO 1449 with one cited reference for consideration and entry into the application file. In addition, Applicant wishes to bring to the Office's attention, the following co-pending application files:

## II. CONCLUSION

No fee, other than the fee for the RCE, is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this reply. However, if the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 50-2518, referencing billing number 2239157319. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account. Should a telephone interview advance prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (650) 849-4950.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 27, 2003

By: 

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